

Johnson Gives Legislators His View of World Scene

BY FENDALL YERXA

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 19—President Johnson gave a "highly classified briefing" on recent international developments to the Congressional leaders of both parties today. It brought forth no criticism of the Administration's foreign policy or suggestions for changes in it.

The President outlined the world picture in the light of the shake-up in the Soviet Union and the Chinese Communist atomic test.

He said at a news conference later that a "thorough discussion" had followed the briefing. In the discussion, he said, he reaffirmed to the group that the new developments in world affairs required a careful watch, but "they only reinforce the need for continuation of our basic bipartisan foreign policy."

Goldwater Takes Exception

One of the principal subjects of campaign attacks by the Republican Presidential candidate, Senator Barry Goldwater, has been the Administration's conduct of foreign affairs.

The President, who canceled several days of campaigning to deal with recent international developments, said that he was eager "to go out and have some visits with people."

Soon afterward his office scheduled political appearances at noon Wednesday in Akron, Ohio, at noon Thursday in Memphis and at 8 P.M. in Baltimore.

After today's two-and-a-half hour meeting in the Cabinet room of the White House, the Republican leader, Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, said that the briefing had been "very thorough," but he added that there were "still a lot of questions, a lot of problems, a lot of unresolved matters."

The House Republican leader, Representative Charles A. Halleck of Indiana, called the briefing "very interesting and informative."

On the Democratic side, the House whip, Representative

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Hale Boggs of Louisiana, said that he felt "very encouraged," and Senator George A. Smathers of Florida, the secretary of the Senate Democratic Conference, said: "This was as full a briefing as we have ever had."

None of them gave any substantive report of the discussion.

The President announced two additional steps toward implementing United States foreign policy.

He said that he expected to meet on Wednesday with the 16-member bipartisan advisory group that he appointed Sept. 9 to "counsel with me" on international matters.

Will Meet British Minister

He also said that he intended to have a discussion early next week with the new British Foreign Secretary, Patrick Gordon Walker, presumably as a preliminary to high-level conversations with Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

The briefing today was broken down into two principal segments — the Soviet political upheaval and the Chinese nuclear test.

John A. McCone, Director of Central Intelligence, and Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, discussed the Chinese nuclear effort.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, according to the President's résumé of the meeting, reported on defense plans and deployment, and said that they "take full account of the Chinese effort now and for the future."

"He emphasized as well," Mr. Johnson said, "the enormous cost to all mankind of any nuclear holocaust, and he showed how the heavy strategic superiority of the United States deters and will continue to deter all possible opponents."

Thompson Speaks on Soviet

The President said that Llewellyn E. Thompson, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of State, gave a "very excellent review" of the probable causes and the meaning of the removal of Nikita Khrushchev as Soviet premier. He also reviewed the methods of United States analysis of these developments.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk explained the political and diplomatic steps that the United States is taking.

The President said that the leadership did not ask any critical questions after the briefing, although some general questions were put in order to "develop information."

"I don't want to imply that their silence approved what we said or did or anything," the President said, "although I asked for corrections and suggestions and criticisms and I didn't interpret anything that was said as falling within that area."

Today's meeting, which was arranged and announced last Saturday, included the Democratic and Republican leaders of both houses of Congress, plus the principal Cabinet officers and Administration executives concerned.

Those invited from the Democratic side of the Senate were Carl Hayden of Arizona, President pro tem; Mike Mansfield of Montana, the majority leader; Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, majority whip and the Vice-Presidential candidate; Senator Smathers; J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

The Republican Senators invited were Senator Dirksen; Thomas R. Kuchel of California; Charles McNamara of Iowa, ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee; George D. Aiken of Vermont, the Senate's ranking Republican, and Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee.

From the House side, the invited Democrats were Speaker John W. McCormack of Massachusetts; Carl Albert of Oklahoma, the Democratic floor leader; Mr. Boggs; Thomas E. Morgan of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Carl Vinson of Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

The Republican Congressmen were Mr. Halleck; Leslie C. Arends of Illinois, Minority whip and ranking Republican member of the Armed Services Committee, and Frances P. Bolton of Ohio, the ranking Minority member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.